

FILED

JUN 25 2018

CLERK OF THE COURT
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
GENTRE WEEKS,)
)
Defendant.)

CRIMINAL NO. 18-300 35
VIO: 18 U.S.C. § 1347(a)(2)

INFORMATION

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES:

1) At all times material herein, the "Home Services Program (HSP)" was a "Medicaid waiver" program in the State of Illinois administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS). Medicaid Waiver programs enable states to use both state and federal Medicaid funds to pay for services related to medical care that Medicaid would not ordinarily cover.

2) The operational responsibility for the HSP, with minor exceptions, rested with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), which is an agency within the DHS. At all times relevant, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which is an agency within the United States Department of Health &

Human Services, provided approximately half of the money funding this program.

3) Through the HSP, the State of Illinois provided funding for services to individuals with significant disabilities so that they could remain in their homes and live as independently as possible. The HSP refers to these individuals as “customers.” The HSP provides such individuals with a “Personal Assistant,” hereinafter referred to as PA. Through the HSP, a qualified individual can hire one or more PAs, who are to perform or assist those with disabilities in performing common tasks such as household tasks, shopping, personal care, incidental health care tasks, and monitoring to ensure the health and safety of the customer. PAs are to be hired by and report directly to the customer or the customer’s family member, but they are paid by the State of Illinois with Medicaid funds.

4) One of the persons eligible for assistance through the HSP was “RW,” a relative of GENTRE WEEKS who lived in the same household as GENTRE WEEKS at all times relevant. On or about October 29, 2001, GENTRE WEEKS submitted a “Customer/Provider Agreement” between herself and “RW,” listing herself as the PA for “RW.” GENTRE WEEKS and “RW” signed the document which contains the following provisions:

- *The customer and the Personal Assistant (hereinafter called "provider") understand and agree to the following program provisions governing delivery of services and receipt of payment through Illinois Department of Human Services - Office of Rehabilitation Services (DHS-ORS) the Home Services Program. Compliance with the program provisions described herein is required for participation in the Home Services Program, as they are necessary to ensure implementation of the service plan and proper use of state and federal funds.*
- *Customer and provider agree to provide all information and documentation necessary to develop a service plan and to authorize services, assuring that such information is complete and accurate, and that all information learned or heard or contained in the service plan shall be held as confidential by the provider.*

5) On or about April 9, 2014, during a redetermination of “RW’s”

eligibility by DORS, GENTRE WEEKS falsely reported that “RW” was never left alone and needed assistance with cleaning her own area in their residence when she knew that “RW” was working as a custodian. By omission of this material fact, GENTRE WEEKS caused DORS to continue “RW’s” eligibility for the HSP.

6) From at least on or about April 9, 2014, through at least on or about January 27, 2018, in the Central District of Illinois,


GENTRE WEEKS,

the defendant herein, knowingly and willfully executed a scheme or artifice to obtain, by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, money and property owned by and under the custody and control of the Illinois Medicaid program, a health care benefit program as defined in Title 18,

United States Code, Section 24(b), in connection with the payment for health care benefits, items, and services.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347(a)(2).

s/ Gregory Gilmore



JOHN E. CHILDRESS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
GMG